

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 7-8, 13-14 and 19-20 are cancelled, and claims 3-6, 9-12, 15-18 and 21-37 are amended. Thus, claims 3-6, 9-12, 15-18 and 21-37 are active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised in order to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Also attached hereto is a marked-up version of the substitute specification and abstract illustrating the changes made to the original specification and abstract.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for kindly indicating, on page 3 of the Office Action, that claims 25-37 are allowed. Minor editorial revisions were made to claims 25-37 in order to improve their U.S. form. The Applicants submit that the revisions to claims 25-37 were not to broaden or narrow the scope of protection for the present invention. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 25-37, as amended, are still clearly in condition for allowance.

The Applicants also thank the Examiner for kindly indicating, on page 3 of the Office Action, that claims 3-6, 9-12, 15-18 and 21-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 3 and 4 have each been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in cancelled claims 1 and 2. Claims 9 and 10 have each been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in cancelled claims 7 and 8. Claims 15 and 16 have each been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in cancelled claims 13 and 14. Claims 21 and 22 have each been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in cancelled claims 19 and 20.

Accordingly, in view of the Examiner's assertion that claims 3-6, 9-12, 15-18 and 21-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims, the Applicants

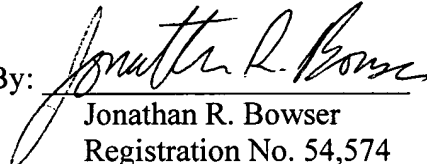
respectfully submit that amended claims 3-4, 9-10, 15-16 and 21-22, as well as claims 5-6, 11-12, 17-18 and 23-24 which depend therefrom, are clearly in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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